

tered from penetrating these islands by the cannibals, the fierce head-hunters, the tropical fevers, or the other dangers incident to the country. We find but two English books on these islands; one that of Sir Stamford Raffles, published in 1820, chiefly treating of Java; and the other by Sir John Crawfurd, published in 1825, who did not visit the eastern part of the archipelago and the interior of Sumatra. Recently an American, Professor Bickmore, of Madison University, has travelled through the entire region known as the Malay Archipelago, making his way through dangerous tribes, penetrating islands hitherto entirely unexplored, and travelling over a larger portion of the archipelago than had ever been accomplished before, either by an Englishman, Dutchman, German, Spaniard, or native. He journeyed from Batavia in Java, along the north coast of that island to Samarang and Surabaya; thence to Macassar; thence through Sapi Strait to the southern end of Timur; thence along the west coast to Dilli, and north to the Banda Islands, ascending their famous volcano, and thence to Amboina. He passed several months in the Moluccas; visited Ceram and Buru; proceeded to Padang, making a long journey through the interior of this island to the land of the cannibals; and from Padang came down to Bencoolen, and made his way across the whole island of Sumatra, through the mountains and down the rivers, to the island of Banca. Professor Bickmore was enabled to accomplish this task by means of the friendly aid of the Dutch officials, secured by credentials from Senator Sumner, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and by letters from J. G. S. Van Breda, Secretary of the Society of Sciences in Holland, to Baron Sloet van de Beele, Governor-General of the Netherlands India.

Without referring particularly to all the islands and tribes visited by Professor Bickmore, a few passages from his book may be quoted with interest. The island of Nusalaut is one of a group called the "Uliassers." It is oblong in form, less than two miles in length, and, in some places, only half a mile wide. The surface is hilly, but with no great elevation. The number of villages is only seven. Arriving at Sila, the professor found his fame had travelled before him:

"As we entered the kampong, we found the main street ornamented in a most tasteful manner. The young, light-yellow leaves of the cocoa-nut palm had been split in two and were bent into bows or arcs with the midrib uppermost, and the leaflets hanging beneath. These bows were placed on the top of the fence, so as to form a continued series of arches; a simple arrangement that certainly produced a most charming effect. As we passed along, scores of heavily-loaded flintlocks were discharged in our honor, and these mimic warriors continued their peculiar evolutions. From Sila a short walk brought us to Lainitu, and here our reception took a new phase. In front of the rajah's house was a wide triumphal arch, made of boards, and ornamented with two furious red lions, who held up a shield containing a welcome to the Resident. But just before we passed under that, the crowd in front parted, and lo, before us stood eighteen or twenty young girls, who had been selected from the whole village for their beauty. They were all arrayed in their costliest dresses, which consisted of a bright-red sarong and a low kabaya, over which was another of lace, the latter bespangled with many thin pieces of silver. Their long, black hair was combed backward, and fastened in a knot behind, and in this were stuck many long flexible silver pins, that rapidly vibrated as they danced. Most of them had a narrow strip of the hair over the forehead clipped short, but not shaven, a most unsightly custom, and perhaps originally designed to make their foreheads higher. Their lips were stained to a dull brick-red from constantly indulging in the use of the betel. They were arranged in two rows, and their dance, the *minari*, was nothing more than slowly twisting their body to the right and left, and, at the same time, moving the extended arms and open hands in circles in opposite directions. The only motion of their naked feet was to change the weight of the body from the heel to the toe, and *vice versa*. During the dance they sang a low, plaintive song, which was accompanied by a *tifa*, and a number of small gongs, suspended by means of a cord in a framework of *gaba-gaba*, the dried midribs of palm-leaves.

"While we were watching the slow, graceful dance, dinner was pre-

## A NEW FIELD OF ADVENTURE.

THE Eastern Archipelago is almost a new field of adventure and exploration for the traveller. While the secrets of interior Africa have been wrested from their fastnesses, the Nile traced to its source, and all the dangers and difficulties of travel in those inhospitable wildernesses boldly combated by many travellers, we find the numerous islands of the Asiatic Archipelago to have been singularly neglected by both English and American explorers. The jealousy of the Dutch Government has doubtless been one cause of this—probably the sole cause; for we cannot suppose that Livingstone, or Barth, or Burton, who ran such tremendous risks in Africa, could have been de-

pared, and we were summoned from the veranda to an open room in the rear. The wife of the rajah was the only lady at the table, and, as all the princes and notables of the other villages were present, the number of guests who were ready to take seats with us was not small. Our bill of fare was sufficient to satisfy the most fastidious epicure; for substantial diet the neighboring forests had furnished us with an abundance of venison and the meat of the wild boar, and the adjoining bays had yielded several kinds of nice fish. All was prepared in an unexceptionable manner, and the rich display of pineapples, mangostins, dukus, and several kinds of bananas, was finer than many a European prince could set before his guests. The process of demolishing had fully begun, when the dark beauties, who had been dancing before the house, came in, and ranged themselves round the table. My first impression was, that they had come in to see how Europeans eat, and I only restrained from hinting to that effect to the Resident on my right, because he had already smiled to see my surprise at our novel reception, and besides, I was anxious not to appear to be wholly ignorant of their odd customs. Soon they began to sing, and this, I thought to myself, is probably what is meant by a sumptuous banquet in the East, and, if so, it well deserves the name. As the song continued, one after another took out a handkerchief of spotless white, and, folding it into a triangular form, began to fan the gentleman in front of her. This is indeed Eastern luxury, I said to myself, and, while I was wondering what would come next, the damsel behind the Resident reached forward and gave him a loud kiss on his cheek. "That was intended as an appetizer, I presume?" *Natuurlijk*, "Of course," he replied, and I leaned back in my chair to give way to a hearty laugh, which I had been trying for a long time to restrain, when suddenly I was astonished by a similar salutation on the lips! It was done so quickly that I had no time to recover from my bewildering surprise, and coolly explain that such was not the custom in my land.

Instead of my laughing at the Resident's expense, the whole party laughed at mine; but my confusion was dispelled by the assurance of all that even the governor-general himself had to submit to such treatment when he came to inspect these islands."

The Battas are a tribe of cannibals living in the interior of the island of Padang. Singular enough, these people are so far civilized as to have invented an alphabet, and yet their fondness for human flesh is unconquerable. Many tribes within the territory under the control of the Dutch Government were at one time cannibals, but the Dutch compelled them to relinquish

their fiendish custom. The tribes in the interior mountain districts have been too inaccessible to the Dutch arms to secure this result. They give an odd origin of this habit. Many years ago one of their rajahs committed a great crime, and it was evident to all that, exalted as he was, he ought to suffer the penalty, but no one would take upon himself the responsibility of punishing a prince. In this dilemma the idea was hit upon that he should be put to death, but that each one should eat a piece of his body, and in this way all share in punishing him. The morsels thus distributed, to the astonishment of all, proved so exceedingly palatable, that it was unanimously agreed thereafter to feast themselves upon convicts, prisoners, and all persons legally put to death. The custom thus established has been handed down to the present day. The parts of the body esteemed the greatest delicacies are the palms of the hands, and after them the eyes. As soon as a piece is cut off it is dipped, still warm and bloody, in *sambal*, a condiment compounded of red pepper and salt. Formerly it was the custom to broil the flesh, as we have the testimony of a European, that a native of Nias, who had stabbed a Batta, was seized by the friends of the murdered man, tied to a stake, cut in pieces with the utmost eagerness while yet alive, and eaten upon the spot partly broiled, but mostly raw. A missionary informed Professor Bickmore that he knew a Batta, who had been guilty of a small theft, being seized, his arms extended full length and fastened to a bamboo, a sharpened prop placed under his chin, so that he could not move his head, and in this condition he was bound fast to a tree. The knife was then handed to the native who had lost the article, who, promptly stepping for-



ward, cut out of the living man the piece he preferred. The rajah took the second choice, and then the people finished the butchery. Our traveller was shown a spot where a Batta, who had been guilty of adultery, had been killed and eaten by his fellows not long before. Two villagers were seized by this fierce tribe during Professor Bickmore's sojourn on the island, one of them eaten, and the other retained for a future banquet. The resident authority was appealed to, to force the cannibals to deliver up their intended victim, but this could not be done. The Battas occupied a country extremely moun-

tainous, covered with dense forests, and they could only be reached with extreme difficulty, by a large force, and with a great outlay of money.

While in Ceram, the largest island in the Moluccas, Professor Bickmore saw a number of the *Alfura*, a fierce tribe dwelling among the mountains, to whom messengers were sent by the Resident, inviting them to come down to the coast and perform their war-dance:

"In a few hours a party of about twenty appeared. Only eight or ten were able-bodied men; the others were women, children, and old men. In height and general appearance they closely resemble the Malays, and evidently form merely a subdivision of the Malay race. Their peculiar characteristics are the darker color of their skins and of their hair, which, instead of being lank like that of the Malays, is crisp, but not woolly like that of the Papuans. They wear it so very long, that they may properly be said to have large and bushy heads. When in full dress, however, this abundance of hair is confined by a red handkerchief, obtained from the natives on the coast, and ornamented with parts of a small shell, the *Nassa*, in place of beads. Their clothing is a strip of the inner bark of a tree beaten with stones until it becomes white and opaque, and appears much like white, rough paper. This garment is three or four inches wide and about three feet long. It passes round the waist and covers the loins in such a way that one end hangs down in front as far as the knee. On the arm, above the elbow, some wore a large ring, apparently made from the stalk of a sea-fan, *Gorgonia*. To this were fastened bunches of long, narrow green leaves, striped with yellow. Similar ornaments were fastened to the elbows and to the strip of bark at the waist. Each of the warriors was armed with a *parang* or cleaver, which he raised high in the right hand, while on his left arm was a shield three or four feet long but only four or five inches wide, which he held before him as if to ward off an imaginary blow. Their dance was merely a series of short leaps forward and backward, and occasionally whirling quickly round as if to defend themselves from a sudden attack in the rear. Their only musical instrument was a rude tifa, which was accompanied by a monotonous song from the women, children, and old men. At first the time of the music was slow, but by degrees it grew quicker and louder, until all sang as fast and loud as they could. The dancing warriors became more excited, and flourished their cleavers and leaped to and fro with all their might, until, as one of our company remarked, their eyes were like fire. It was easy to understand that in such a state of temporary madness they would no more hesitate to cleave off a head than to cut down a bamboo. They are far-famed 'head-hunters.' It is a custom that has become a law among them that every young man must at least cut off *one human head before he can marry*. Heads, therefore, are in great demand, and perhaps our realization of this fact made these frenzied savages appear the more shocking specimens of humanity. The head of a child will meet the inexorable demands of this bloody law, but the head of a woman is preferred, because it is supposed she can more easily defend herself or escape; for the same reason the head of a man is held in higher estimation, and the head of a white man is a proof of the greatest bravery, and therefore the most glorious trophy."

"On the north coast, near Sawai Bay, the Dutch, a few years ago, had a war with these natives, and when they had driven them to the mountains, they found in their huts between two and three times as many human skulls as it is probable there were people in the whole village, men, women, and children, taken together. When a man is afraid to go out on such a hunt alone, he invites or hires two or three others to assist him, and all lie in wait near a neighboring village until some one chances to pass by, when they spring out and dispatch their victim, and escape. This, of course, creates a deadly enmity between each tribe and every other near it; and the whole interior of the eastern half of the island, where this head-hunting prevails, is one unchanging scene of endless, bloody strife. The same custom prevails over the greater part of the interior of Borneo among many tribes known as *Dyaks*, the Malay word for 'savage.' There only the heads of men are valued, and new ones must be obtained to celebrate every birth and funeral, as well as marriage. I have seen a necklace of human teeth made in that island by those people. Small holes had been drilled in several scores of them, which were then strung on a wire long enough to pass two or three times round the neck of the hero who wore it. When a head is secured, the brains are taken out, and it is placed over a fire to be smoked and dried. During this process,

the muscles of the face contract and change the features until they assume a most ghastly grimace.

"The dance being finished, we conversed with them as well as we could about their customs, for none of them could speak but a few words in Malay. On the piece of paper-like bark which hangs down in front, each warrior makes a circle when he cuts off a head. Some had one or two of these circles; but one man had four, and I gave him to understand that I knew what they meant by drawing my hand four times across my throat, and then holding up the fingers of one hand, and instantly he hopped about as delighted as a child, thinking that of course I was regarding him as the bravest of the brave, while I looked at him in mute astonishment, and tried to realize what a hardened villain he was. Our North American savages are civilized men compared to these fiends in human form."

While among the Banda Islands, Professor Bickmore ascended the famous volcano forming the island of Gunong Api, or "Burning Mountain," which is the most active crater in the Indian archipelago. The mountain is almost a perfect cone, rising two thousand five hundred feet above the level of the sea. A party was formed for the ascent, consisting of the governor, the captain and lieutenant of a vessel in port, the professor himself, and the requisite number of guides and servants. Crossing at an early hour the "Strait of the Sun" to the foot of the mountain, they prepared for the ascent. A gang of coolies had preceded them, and cleared a way up the steep acclivity; but soon the only road was the narrow banks formed by large masses of rock and sand, loosened from some place high up in the mountain, and which, shooting down to the base, had ploughed up the shrubbery in their descent, and left a sort of pathway.

"As long as we climbed up among the small trees, although it was difficult and tiring, it was not particularly dangerous until we came out on the naked sides of the mountain, for this great elevation is not covered with vegetation more than two-thirds of the distance from its base to its summit. This lack of vegetation is caused by the frequent and wide land-slides, and by the great quantity of sulphur brought up to its top by sublimation, and washed down its sides by the heavy rains. Here we were obliged to crawl up on all fours among small, rough blocks of porous lava, and all spread out until our party formed a horizontal line on the mountain-side, so that when one loosened several rocks, as constantly happened, they might not come down upon some one beneath him. Our ascent now was extremely slow and difficult, but we kept on, though sometimes the top of the mountain seemed as far off as the stars, until we were within about five hundred feet of the summit, when we came to a horizontal band of loose, angular fragments of lava from two to six inches in diameter. The mountain-side at that place rose at least at an angle of thirty-five degrees, but to us, in either looking up or down, it seemed almost perpendicular. The band of stones was about two hundred feet wide, and so loose that, when one was touched, frequently half a dozen would go rattling down the mountain. I had got about half-way across this dangerous place, when the stones on which my feet were placed gave way. This, of course, threw my whole weight on my hands, and at once the rocks which I was holding with the clinched grasp of death, also gave way, and I began to slide downward. The natives on either side of me cried out, but no one dared to catch me for fear that I should carry him down also. Among the loose rocks, a few ferns grew up and spread out their leaves to the sunlight. As I felt myself going down, I chanced to roll to my right side and notice one of them, and, quick as a flash of light, the thought crossed my mind that my only hope was to seize *that fern*. This I did with my right hand, burying my elbow among the loose stones with the same motion, and that, thanks to a kind Providence, was sufficient to stop me; if it had broken, in less than a minute—probably in thirty or forty seconds—I should have been dashed to pieces on the rough rocks beneath. The whole certainly occurred in a less space of time than it takes to read two lines on this page. I found myself safe—drew a long breath of relief—thanked God it was well with me—and, kicking away the loose stones with my heels, turned round and kept on climbing. Beneath this band of loose stones the surface of the mountain was covered with a crust formed chiefly of the sulphur washed down by the rains, which have also formed many small grooves. Here we made better progress, though it seemed the next thing to climbing the side of a

brick house; and I thought I should certainly be eligible to the 'Alpine Club'—if I ever got down alive. At this moment the natives above us gave a loud shout, and I supposed of course that some one had lost his footing and was going down to certain death. '*Look out! Look out! Great rocks are coming!*' was the order they gave us; and the next instant several small blocks, and one great flake of lava, two feet in diameter, bounded by us with the speed of lightning. '*Here is another!*' It is coming straight for us, and it will take out one of our number to a certainty, I thought. I had stood up in the front of battle when shot and shell were flying, and men were falling; but now to see the danger coming, and to feel that I was perfectly helpless, I must confess, made me shudder, and I crouched down in the groove where I was, hoping it might bound over me: and at that instant, a fragment of lava, a foot square, leaped up from the mountain and passed directly over the head of a coolie a few feet to my right, clearing him by not more than six or eight inches.

"When we had surveyed the top and it was time to descend, we called our guide, to whom some one had given the classical prænomen of Apollo (a more appropriate title at least than Mercury, for he never moved with winged feet); but he could not tell where we ought to go, every thing appeared so very different when we looked downward. I chose a place where the vegetation was nearest the top, and asked him if I could go down there, to which, of course, he answered yes, as most people do when they do not know what to say, and must give some reply.

"I had brought up with me an alpen-stock, or long stick, slightly curved at one end, and with this I reached down and broke places for my heels in the crust that covered the sand and loose stones. For hundreds of feet beneath me the descent seemed perpendicular, but I slowly worked my way downward for more than ninety feet, and had begun to congratulate myself on the good progress I was making. Soon, I thought, I shall be down there, where I can lay hold of that bush and feel that the worst is past, when I was suddenly startled by a shout from my companions, who were at some distance on my right. 'Stop! Don't go a step farther, but climb directly up just as you went down.' I now looked round for the first time, and found, to my astonishment, that I was on a tongue of land between two deep, long holes or fissures, where great land-slides had recently occurred. I had kept my attention so fixed on the bush before me that I had never looked to the right or left—generally a good rule in such trying situations. To go on was to increase my peril, so I turned, climbed up again, and passed round the head of one of these frightful holes. If at any time the crust had been weak, and had broken beneath my heels, no earthly power could have saved me from instant death. As I broke place after place for my feet with the staff, I thought of Professor Tyndal's dangerous ascent and descent of Monte Rosa. At last I joined my companions, who had found the way we had come up, and after some slips and sprains, and considerable bruising, we all reached the bottom safely, and were glad to be off the volcano, and, landing on Banda Neira, feel ourselves on *terra firma* once more."